

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4407
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
COST OF AIDS MEDICINE
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to bring down the prices of medicines of AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Finance and State Governments to remove, exempt excise and sales tax on AIDS medicines;
- (c) whether the AIDS medicines can be brought under drug control system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken initiative to bring down the prices of medicines of AIDS (antiretroviral drugs) for exempting excise and customs duty and Sales Tax.

The AIDS medicines are already covered under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.